



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

*The Office of the Governor*  
**Proclamation**

State Capitol  
Boise

*WHEREAS, over 40% of children in the United States can not read at grade level by the end of third grade; and*

*WHEREAS, literacy is essential for success in today's technologically driven world; and*

*WHEREAS, illiteracy has been characterized by the National Center for Child Health and Development as a public health problem; and*

*WHEREAS, parents are a child's first, best and most influential teachers; and*

*WHEREAS, all parents want their children to succeed and experts agree improving literacy begins at birth; and*

*WHEREAS, teachers, parents and caregivers in Idaho continue to expand their knowledge of the benefits of early literacy and the skills necessary to prepare children to learn to read; and*

*WHEREAS, public awareness of the importance of early literacy is growing along with the recognition of literacy as a critical civil right; and*

*WHEREAS, September signals the return of Idaho's children to the classroom;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, DIRK KEMPTHORNE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim September 2004, to be*

**EARLY LITERACY MONTH**

*in Idaho.*



*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this second day of August in the year of our Lord two-thousand and four and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred twenty-ninth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred fifteenth.*

A handwritten signature of Dirk Kempthorne in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature of Ben Ray Lujan in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

BEN RAY LUJAN  
SECRETARY OF STATE